

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 EB-04 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 /025 W

----- 036206

R 080923Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8247

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13280

FOR PAYEFF FROM SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF VOA FACILITIES AT TINANG

REF: USIA 23633

1. YOUR PROPOSAL TO EXPAND VOA FACILITIES AT TINANG NEEDS SOME CLARIFICATION BEFORE I CAN GIVE YOU A COGENT ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE GOP REACTION. LET ME POSE THE PROBLEMS AS I SEE THEM AND ASK FOR DETAILED STATEMENT OF YOUR INTENTIONS.

2. FIRST, IS IT YOUR PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE THREE 50 KW MOBILE TRANSMITTERS CURRENTLY AT TINANG WHEN YOU INSTALL THE OKINAWA TRANSMITTERS? IF SO, WE WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT A TOTAL OF SIXTEEN "VERY HIGH POWER HIGH FREQUENCY TRANSMITTERS" AT TINANG. IF NOT, WE WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT SIXTEEN VERY HIGH POWER AND THREE SMALLER TRANSMITTERS FOR A TOTAL OF NINETEEN.

3. TECHNICALLY, THERE IS NO RPT NO PROVISION IN THE CURRENT AGREEMENT FOR THE THREE MIBILE TYPES, BUT SINCE THEY, PLUS THE TEN 250 KW TYPES, REACH A COMBINED TOTAL OF LESS THAN THE FOURTEEN PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT, THE ISSUE HAS NEVER BEEN RAISED. IF WE ARE TO INCREASE
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THE 250 KW TYPES, THE MOBILES BECOME AN ISSUE IN

THEMSELVES.

4. SECOND, QUITE APART FROM THE MOBILES, I DO NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER THAT THE "BROAD LANGUAGE" OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD COVER SIXTEEN 250 KW TRANSMITTERS. THE LANGUAGE SPECIFICALLY STATES "UP TO FOURTEEN" AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE AMENDED BY AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

5. THIRD, I AM NOT CLEAR ABOUT YOUR DESIRE WITH RESPECT TO A MODIFICATION OF THE TERMINATION PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE VIII. THE TEN YEAR FEATURE OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT STILL HAS FIVE YEARS TO RUN, SINCE TINANG OFFICIALLY BECAME OPERATIONAL ONLY IN 1969. THE RATHER COMPLEX TERMINATION FEATURES GIVE YOU ONLY LIMITED "PROTECTION" OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS BECAUSE THE PRO-RATA VALUATION ON THE TEN TRANSMITTERS AND OTHER FACILITIES CURRENTLY AT TINANG WILL, FOR EXAMPLE, FALL TO 10PERCENT BY 1978. THE MORE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION YOU HAVE LIES IN YOUR 18 MONTH CANCELLATION CLAUSE, PLUS YOUR RIGHT OF REMOVAL IN THE EVENT NEGOTIATED TERMS CAN NOT BE AGREED UPON. I DOUBT YOU WILL GET MUCH BETTER THAN THAT, OR THAT YOU REALLY NEED IT.

6. THIRD, I WONDER HOW FIRM YOUR REQUIREMENT IS FOR SIX TRANSMITTERS MERELY BECAUSE THAT IS THE NUMBER CURRENTLY IN OKINAWA. FROM ALL I CAN LEARN, ONLY THE SKETCHIEST SORT OF ENGINEERING HAS GONE INTO THIS ESTIMATE.

7. IN PREPARING YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I BELIEVE THE INSTALLATION OF FOUR (4) 250 KW TRANSMITTERS AT TINANG, ACCOMPANIED BY THE REMOVAL OF THE THREE (3) 50 KW MOBILE UNITS LEFT OVER FROM THE VIET-NAM PERIOD, COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT NEGOTIATION AND WOULD MERELY INVOLVE NOTIFICATION TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OF THE ADDED VALUE OF TINANG, TO BE CALCULATED INTO THE PRO-RATA FEATURES OF ARTICLE VIII.

8. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU WISH TO GO TO EITHER SIXTEEN OR NINETEEN TRANSMITTERS, AND IF, BEYOND THAT, YOU WISH TO MODIFY THE PRO-RATA CLAUSE TO EXTEND
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ANOTHER TEN YEARS BEYOND THE OPERATIONAL DATE OF SIX NEW 250 KW UNITS, WE WILL HAVE A MAJOR NEGOTIATION ON OUR HANDS, AT A PARTICULARLY UNPROFITIOUS MOMENT.

9. NEW TRANSMITTERS TO BROADCAST TO MAINLAND CHINA WHILE MANILA IS ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE REGARDED WITH AVID ENTHUSIASM. NEW TRANSMITTERS WHICH COULD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF

THE CURRENT AGREEMENT, BE USED FOR PHILIPPINE BROADCASTS TO OTHER AREAS(INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES) ARE LIKELY TO BE LOOKED AT VERY CAREFULLY IN TERMS OF THEIR PHILIPPINE (RATHER THAN U.S.) POTENTIAL. IN SHORT, A NEW NEGOTIATION AT THIS TIME WOULD PREDICTABLY BE FRAUGHT WITH MAJOR COMPLICATIONS WHICH OUGHT TO BE AVOIDED BECAUSE THEY COULD UNDO SOME OF OUR CURRENT COZY ARRANGEMENTS.

10. I AM SURE, AFTER YOU HAVE EXAMINED ALL RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS MATTER, THAT YOU WILL WANT TO GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS WHICH MAY BE LESS THAN YOUR OPTIMUM DRUTHERS BUT WHICH WOULD MORE PRUDENTLY REFLECT OUR INTERESTS. THEY MIGHT ALSO MORE REALISTICALLY REFLECT WHAT YOU'RE LIKELY TO GET OUT OF CONGRESS IN YOUR FY 75 BUDGET EXERCISE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSMITTERS, RADIO EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: Izenbel0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA13280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740321-1056
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741159/aaaabyfm.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USIA 23633
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: Izenbel0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2003 by Izenbel0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPANSION OF VOA FACILITIES AT TINANG
TAGS: PFOR, RP, VOA
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005